

# Exciter

RARS

May 1999  
Number 345

Promoting Worldwide Friendship

## RARS Shines on "Open Line"

Gary KN4AQ

RARS benefitted recently from time on WPTF's talk show, "Open Line," with Tom Kearney.

Broadcasting live ON 680 kHz on Wednesday, April 7, listeners learned quite a bit about amateur radio, RARS and upcoming RARS events. During the course of a 2-hour conversation, Tom and his guests, Gary



KN4AQ, Cindy KD4ACW, Jeff Ac4ZO, Cliff KF4RTP, Denyse KG4CXR and Eric KG4CXW discussed callsigns, the early days of radio, license classes, emergency communications, the RARSfest,

transmitting in CW mode, and the RARS Web site. Tom is a former Novice, from back in the days when the Novice license was non-renewable.

## New Web Address for RARS: [www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)

Gary KN4AQ

The coveted Mensa membership is no longer necessary for remembering the RARS Web address. Thanks to Tim KF4RTX, the club's previous Webmaster, RARS has a new home on the Internet. Visit it today—[www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org). Don't be surprised when you see the old address, [www.rtpnet.org/~rars](http://www.rtpnet.org/~rars), in your browser title bar, though, because the new

address is just an alias. RTPnet, our Web host, does not support domain-name hosting; we're using another company to host the 'rars.org' title, which quickly reroutes traffic to RTPnet. We continually search for alternatives that will allow our site to grow with the club. Thanks Tim KF4RTX.

## Tech Tips

### An Email Address with A Callsign?

Matt W2BYV

Would you like the easiest e-mail address ever, and never have to change it again?

If you are an ARRL member, you can have a neat e-mail address like [w2byv@arrl.net](mailto:w2byv@arrl.net). Yes, through the modern miracle of mail reflecting you, too, can have an easy mail address that everyone will be able to remember, and by which other hams can reach you quickly and efficiently.

What is that? You're not an ARRL member? Contact Chuck Littlewood K4HF at [k4hf@arrl.net](mailto:k4hf@arrl.net) for more details. Since there is only one person in the world who can have your call sign, there are enough email addresses to go around.



## Exciter Publishing Information

Dolly Sickles, Interim Editor

Exciter is published monthly by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society and is available to its members at no cost. *Letters to the Editor*, technical articles, amateur radio community items of interest, and guest editorials are always welcome.

Articles published in *Exciter* do not officially represent the views of endorsement by the society. Articles are printed at the discretion of the editor; no article will be published unless it is accompanied by the article submittor.

All *Exciter* submissions must be received by the editor by the third Tuesday of each month. Articles can be hand-written, typed, or submitted electronically, and may be sent directly to the editor or submitted via any society officer.

Amateur radio-related items for sale by members of the society may be advertised without charge for one issue, but may be re-submitted as often as desired. Only non-commercial classified advertising will be printed with no charge.

Commercial advertisers may contact the *Exciter* editor for advertising rates and sizes. All proceeds from commercial advertising are donations to the society. Please do not use amateur radio as a means of transmitting commercial advertising information or material.

Contributions, inquiries and comments concerning *Exciter* content, advertising, distribution, and policies should be directed to the *Exciter* editor.

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## President's Corner

Gary KN4AQ

Just as I sat down to write this month's column, I spied the May issue of *CQ Magazine* that had just arrived. And whose face is there, smiling up from the cover? Our own Chuck Littlewood K4HF! Only a dozen hams a year get their picture on the cover of *CQ*. It's a singular honor. Perhaps we can coerce Chuck to shed some light on how it happened.

Chuck's computer monitor is strategically located just behind his shoulder, which prominently displays the RARS Web page with the headline "RARS #1 in 8A Field Day". The rest of Chuck's impressive equipment collection is buried behind the cover text. I guess if you can't display the entire shack, at least RARS got some free publicity.

Chuck shares his glory with RARS in the 'On The Cover' blurb inside, which mentions that "ex-New Yorker Chuck is very actively involved with the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, and does his operating on all bands from 160 through 440 MHz." Chuck, they've got you pegged. Congratulations.

**Hamfest is history.** Another RARSfest goes down in the history books and when it's over, everyone breathes a sigh of relief. It was a great one—both a lot of work and a lot of fun. Many, many RARS members turned out to help; though some of you gave your committee leaders a few restless nights by volunteering at the last moment. Well, better late than not at all!

Everything about the RARSfest was outstanding—except for attendance. Exhibitor booth and flea market table sales were up from last year. Forums and contests were popular (especially the QLF contest). The big "Dual-Bander-An-Hour" prize giveaway was a hit. But when the tickets were tallied, we had roughly 200 fewer hams through the gate than last year—continuing a downward trend faced not only by the RARSfest, but also by most hamfests in the region.

Two hundred people doesn't make much of a dent in the apparent crowd—the hamfest didn't actually look less crowded. But multiplying the missing 200 people by our \$6 admission fee reveals an ugly mar on the profit line. (continued on page 4)

## HAM Facts

Jesse Bunnell

JEFF AC4ZO

In 1878, Jesse Bunnell founded J. H. Bunnell, a telegraph apparatus manufacturing company.

Bunnell's birth in Massillion, Ohio in 1843 came one year prior to Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail demonstrating the telegraph to Congress, using the message "WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT". Morse and Vail sent the infamous message from the Supreme Court chambers in Washington DC to the railroad station on Pratt Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

By age 13, Bunnell was a professional telegraph operator and by age 17, he set a record of averaging 32 words per minute at the key. While he was still only 17, Bunnell enlisted as an Army operator during the beginning of the Civil War, and finally resigned from the Army on August 16, 1864 to pursue private enterprise ventures.

J.H. Bunnell and Company thrived from its' inception in 1878 until its' purchase in 1989 by MNH Industrials. Bunnell was stricken with an irrecoverable cold in 1899, dying of heart failure on February 9, 1899. Amazing what one ham can Do ...

Jacobs, Dr. J., from a discourse presented at the AWA Conference, 1994.

## Busy Spring for Public Service

Gary KN4AQ

Just as the RARSfest wound down, the public-service season kicked into high gear. In mid-April, the MS Society held a series of fund-raising walks in Raleigh, Cary, RTP and Chapel Hill, as well as in other cities around the country. The March of Dimes also had an event heavily staffed and well-represented by RARS club members. As always, area hams provided safety and logistical communication for the events.

**Special Olympics.** The N.C. Special Olympics Summer Games, May 21–23 needs communications assistance. Note: This is NOT the World Games (which will be held during June); these are the regular annual N.C. games. The state games need ham assistance, so please volunteer.

Stay tuned for news on the World Games. Coordinators for the global event were overzealous with ham plans last summer, but interest in our talents seems to have waned with time. David KD4WQU and Reed AB4W are staying on the scoop. If you've signed up to volunteer, try to be flexible in anticipation of last-minute requests for help. So for now, wait patiently for volunteer training and orientation instruction meetings coming in May.

**SunRayce.** Raleigh will be the overnight host in June to SunRayce, a fleet of solar-powered vehicles, as they race from Washington DC to Orlando, FL. Ham radio operators will help provide communications, particularly with reporting car positions and breakdowns along the route. [\(continued on page 4\)](#)

## Upcoming Events—Volunteers Needed

Matt W2BYV

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have participated in local public service events during April. I hope to see some new names and faces in May.

Jeff Wittich AC4ZO; John Van Pelt K4JVP; Byron King K4NGJ; Bruce Buck KC4UQN; Dick Orander KD4ISC; David Marable KD4WQU; Jeremiah Rogers KE4LSU; Sparky Ramey KE4TES; John Lloyd KE4UTX; Glen Mead KE4ZEA; Thomas Babb KF4JKQ; Grace Hutchins KF4TMS; Larry Stover KF4WVL; Arlene King KF4YBI; Greg Johnson KG4AWG; Bill Hutchins KM4UO; Gary Pearce KN4AQ; Max Bloodworth KO4TV; Stuart Keskawits NF2N; and Matt Sickles W2BYV.

We still need volunteers for the following events.

**NC Special Olympics Summer Games (not World Games)** Friday–Sunday, May 21–23

**Run for Research (Glaxo Wellcome)** Saturday, May 29

**SunRayce** Monday–Tuesday, June 21–22

Please contact Matt W2BYV at 919.303.6657 for volunteer information.

## President’s Corner (continued from page 2)

Gary KN4AQ

Our total, steady loss of attendance during the past few years is nearing 1,000. Low attendance results in a shallow club budget; that kind of buffs the gleam right out of hosting a major show.

So can we do anything about it farther than complaining and waxing pathetic? Absolutely. We can advertise more; enhance area hamfests with a RARSfest booth; rely on word of mouth to other clubs; the possibilities are boundless. As club members, you can sign up weeks in advance to volunteer at the RARSfest rather than waiting until the last minute; make sure that every available interested ham in the region considers traveling to RARSfest. However, if ham radio is really slowing down, these efforts may not be enough. We need to all work together to investigate other sources of income or simply find ways to spend less. Suggestions and ideas are always welcome.

**W2BYV Volunteers As Public-Service Director.** Just in time to help coordinate hams for all of the Spring public service activities, Matt Sickles W2BYV, has stepped up to the open position of RARS Public Service Director. He follows in the footsteps of Mike Milan KE4OQO, who had to step down for personal reasons.

Matt is not the old-timer his W2BYV callsign seems to indicate. His previous call, KF4ZSK, is a better indicator of his new-ham status. W2BYV was his grandfather's callsign and Matt picked it up as a vanity call. But Matt is not a raw beginner, either. He's been working in communications and computers for years and is an engineer at Nortel Networks (on a side note, the Nortel Networks club just received the callsign NT4NT).

I first got to know Matt last Fall when he volunteered for the MS-150. It didn't take long before I knew we had a dynamic new ham in the area. I'm sure he will do a great job in public service. So when you're ready to help out at one or more of the upcoming events, give Matt a call at 919.303.6657 or send him an e-mail at [w2byv@arrl.net](mailto:w2byv@arrl.net). And, thanks Matt for volunteering for this important position!

Congratulations to new RARS Vice President, Tim Nicholson KF4RTX, and new Webmaster, Cliff Broughton KF4RDP. Tim and Cliff have had an active interest in RARS for some time.

Actually, Tim was the previous Webmaster, but pursued interest in the open Vice President position once it became available. Cliff began showing interest in the RARS Web site after assisting Tim on some of the pages. Always willing to bolster in a pinch, Cliff has stepped in to assist the Red Cross at the State Fair last year and also took the last-minute position of Security Chief at the RARSfest in March. Congratulations to Tim and Cliff, and thanks on behalf of RARS.

**73.** Gary KN4AQ

RARS President

## Busy Spring for Public Service (continued from page 3)

Gary KN4AQ

We'll need hams to help on Monday, June 21 as the cars arrive from Virginia and Tuesday, June 22 as they depart for South Carolina. It looks like the PCRN linking system will be ideal to cover the entire route in southern VA. and all of N.C., though there may be need for 75 meter relays as well.



RARS Board Meeting

The monthly Board meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on March 17. The meeting was called to order by KN4AQ at 7:43 PM. Members present at that time were KN4AQ, K4HF, AB4OZ, KO4QH, WD4RDT, KF4RTX, KC4UPX, and AC4ZO; total attendance was 9.

On motion by KC4UPX, seconded by

KF4RTX, the minutes of the February meeting were approved.

AC4ZO gave the treasurer's report.

Committee Reports:

- KC4UPX gave the FM Committee report.
- AC4ZO reported on the Education Department.
- KF4RTX gave the Webmasters activity report.

RARS General Meeting

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue on April 6. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by KN4AQ, who welcomed 53 members and 2 guests. N4YTO gave the treasurers report. The RARS checking account is approximately \$13,661; the savings account is approximately \$4,241; and the investment account is \$13,870.

RARS membership is 241.

A special election was held for the Vice President and Webmaster positions. The candidate for Vice President was Tim Nicholson KF4RTX, and the candidate for Webmaster was Cliff Broughton KF4RDP. The floor was opened for nominations and on

motion by KE4OQO, seconded by KE4IZZ, nominations were closed. On motion by KA2FWC, KN4AQ instructed AC4ZO to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees.

KN4AQ made several announcements.

- The Spring public service schedule is available; a volunteer sign-up sheet was circulated.
- The Tom Kearney Show on WPTF radio, Wednesday, April 7 from 9:00 11:00 PM, will be highlighting amateur radio. Gary Pearce KN4AQ will be appearing to talk about amateur radio and RARS.
- RARS has nominated Lynn KO4QH for the ARRL Volunteer Instructor of the Year award. Members can help

March 17, 1999

Jeff AC4ZO

New Business:

A candidate for the office of Vice President has been identified, and a special election will be held at the April general meeting. The candidate is Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX. With the business complete, on motion by AC4ZO, seconded by KC4UPX, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

April 6, 1999

Jeff AC4ZO

by submitting a few paragraphs to ARRL HQ in support of Lynn's efforts. Testimonials from members in a RARS class would be useful.

KN4AQ introduced the speaker for the evening at 7:15 PM—Cyndi Pearce KD4ACW, who presented the steps involved in hosting a hamfest.

Door prizes went to AC4ZO, KD4ZVW, and NF2N.

On motion by AC4ZO, the meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM.

RARS 10-Meter Net to Begin on 28.420 MHz

Gary KN4AQ

The RARS 10-meter net has returned to the air for the first time in a decade on 28.42 MHz. Join in the QSO Wednesday nights at 8:30 PM. The first net met March 3 with about 12 check-ins, and the hectic pace continued for a few weeks until the net slowed down for the RARSfest.

Gary's KN4AQ net reactivation suggestion at the January RARS meeting garnered strong support. The 28.42 frequency was chosen because it bears some relation to the

"official" RARS 2-meter simplex frequency, 147.42.

The 10-meter net is an interesting departure for RARS nets. Since there is no repeater to enhance signals, radio operators are challenged to explore their own capabilities and local propagation. In addition, the upswing in the sunspot cycle and the switch to daylight savings time invites some DX check-ins (along with some competition for the frequency).

All Technician Plus or higher hams are encouraged to check-in on Wednesday evenings to make the 10-meter net successful. If you're interested in taking on some net control responsibilities, call Cliff KF4RDP, Net Manager for RARS. Don't forget, you don't need the biggest signal around to be net control. Check in a few times to see who you can and can't hear. See you Wednesday on 28.42!

Send an Elmer to A Fellow HAM

Jeff AC4ZO

Volunteering time, knowledge and effort should not go unappreciated, and an Elmer Award is the perfect conveyance of appreciation. Send a letter to the American Radio Relay League Headquarters describing who and why an award is warranted, include a check or money order for \$5, and your Elmer will receive a certificate in a few weeks. Note that if you are a RARS member, the club can act as your liaison to ARRL. Call Jeff AC4ZO at 919.362.9456 and give him your Elmer information. Volunteering really makes a difference.

Have you volunteered this year? Opportunities abound in RARS. Call Matt Sickles W2BYV, Public Service Director, at 919.303.6657 to find out how you can serve your community. Make a difference—volunteer!

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RARS Pays IRS Tax Penalty

Gary KN4AQ

The RARS Board has authorized a payment to the IRS to cover a late filing penalty. RARS is tax exempt, but the IRS requires that a *Financial Information Form* be submitted each year. Unfortunately, RARS missed the deadline in 1997 and 1998 and the forms were filed late.

The penalty is substantial—about \$1400; however, the IRS provides an opportunity for appeal. Our new treasurer, David Fix N4YTO, submitted a letter of appeal with the payment. And while there are no guarantees, we may get our money back. The funds to cover the penalty were moved from unspent amounts in the budgets for the repeaters, club meetings and the Exciter.

Club members with questions about this filing penalty can call Gary Pearce KN4AQ at 919.380.9944 (evenings) or correspond via e-mail at kn4aq@arrl.net.

Amateur Radio Electronics

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RARS Class  
Graduates

Congratulations to the Winter session graduates of the RARS Technician License Class.

The Winter session began with 11 students, and had only one early dropout. Of the ten who completed the course, six have taken their exams, and five have achieved Tech or Tech-Plus licenses. The sixth made it through Novice, and will try again for Tech soon.

- Wesley Miller KG4CXT
- Nizam Yousef KG4CXO
- Denyse Walter KG4CXR
- Eric Haywood KG4CXW
- Patricia Babb
- Stephanie Brookover KG4CXZ
- Kerrell Watts

Thanks to class instructors Jeff AC4ZO, Cliff KF4RDP and Gary KN4AQ. The next RARS license class will be held in the fall.

Place  
stamp  
here

Event Calendar May 1999						
						1
2	3	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>RARS Club Meeting</li></ul>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Scanner/SWL SIG Meeting</li></ul>	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>RARS Board Meeting</li></ul>	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NC Special Olympics Summer Games</li></ul>	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NC Special Olympics Summer Games</li></ul>
23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NC Special Olympics Summer Games</li></ul>	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>RARS Dinner</li></ul>	26	27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DurHAMfest</li><li>CCFA Run for Research</li></ul>
30	31					

Visit the RARS Web site at <http://rars.org>.



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